

March 21, 2006

March Twenty First

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The second regular March Meeting of Council was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: Ruby B. Archie, P. A. "Pete" Castiglione, Jr., E. Stokes Daniels, Jr., Mayor John C. Hamlin, T. David Luther, T. Wayne Oakes, Sherman M. Saunders, H. Phillip Smith, and Vice-Mayor R. Wayne Williams, Jr. (9).

Staff Members present were: City Manager Jerry L. Gwaltney, Deputy City Manager M. Lyle Lacy, III, Assistant City Manager for Utilities Joseph C. King, City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield, Jr., and City Clerk/Clerk of the Council Annette Y. Crane, CMC.

Other Staff members present were Transportation Services Director Marc Adelman, Chief of Police Philip Broadfoot, Economic Development Director Ron Bunch, Finance Director Barbara Dameron, Fire Marshall David Eagle, Human Services Director Gwendolyn Edwards, Community Development Director Jerry Fischer, Fire Chief B. G. Lewis, Housing and Development Director Dianne Morris, and Deputy Public Works Director/City Engineer Kent Shelton.

Mayor Hamlin presided.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Stokes Daniels offered the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed.

MINUTES

Upon Motion by Council Member Luther and second by Council Member Smith, Minutes of the March 7, 2006 Regular Meeting of Danville City Council were approved as presented. Draft copies had been distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting. The Minutes were approved by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes,
Saunders, Smith, and Williams (9)
NAY: None (0).

AMENDMENTS TO UTILITY RATE SCHEDULES

Upon Motion by Council Member Smith and second by Council Member Daniels, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-03.04

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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY'S UTILITY RATE SCHEDULES TO PROVIDE A NEW COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION GAS SERVICE IN THE GAS FUND AND AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RIDER IN THE ELECTRIC FUND

was presented by its First Reading, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

In response to questions from several Council Members, Assistant City Manager for Utilities Joe King explained the Utility Commission and the Utility Department staff were recommending two additions to the utility rate schedules. A new "Commercial Transportation Gas Service" tariff that provides commercial customers the same opportunity to acquire and transport their own natural gas supplies that is currently restricted to certain industrial customers, and, an "Economic Development Rider" that would be used by Economic Development staff as an incentive for business location and expansion.

Mr. King reported that a local company that operates several laundromats in Danville had requested a new commercial transportation gas service rate schedule, which would be used on an experimental basis. Based on the cumulative natural gas consumption of the company's nine laundromats, the tariff could allow the company the flexibility and cost savings desired at no financial loss to the City.

Mr. King advised the proposed economic development rider to the electric rate schedules would provide a means for stimulating new and expanded business investment and employment in the City. He said providing a temporary price break to a customer who could bring new electric demand to the utility made good business sense over the long term. Mr. King called attention to a draft presented to Council Members that is modeled after several such riders used by other electric utilities. The rider would be applicable to eligible customers that added at least 500 kilowatts (kW) in new or additional electric load in a manufacturing operation that generated at least 25 new jobs or a taxable investment of at least \$1,000,000. The length of a contract would be normally be five years and Mr. King advised the demand charge would be discounted each year until it was eliminated after five years.

BUDGET AMENDMENT-FY 2005-2006-VIRGINIA LEAD FREE SAFE HOMES GRANT

Upon Motion by Council Member Daniels and second by Council Member Oakes, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-03.05

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A VIRGINIA LEAD SAFE HOMES GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$375,200

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was presented by its First Reading, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

In response to Council Member Saunders, Housing and Development Director Dianne Morris explained that the Lead Safe Homes Program existed to address the dangers of lead poisoning in children by rehabilitating housing units that contained lead-based paint. Qualification for participation in the program includes units that are occupied by low-income owners or tenants with children less than six years of age and/or pregnant women. Ms. Morris advised highest priority would be given to those units that were occupied by children who already show high lead concentrations. She stated rehabilitation included free lead control work for such items as window replacement, siding, and painting.

Vice-Mayor Williams asked how landlords would benefit from the program. Ms. Morris stated they would benefit by having their properties rehabilitated, but it was their responsibility to ensure that tenants met the requirements, such as children under the age of six and pregnant women.

BUDGET AMENDMENT-FY 2005-2006-FIRE SAFETY HOUSE GRANT

Upon Motion by Vice-Mayor Williams and second by Council Member Archie, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-03.06

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,000 FROM THE OFFICE OF DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS AND THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,000 TO PURCHASE A FIRE SAFETY HOUSE

was presented by its First Reading, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

BUDGET AMENDMENT-FY 2005-2006-DEPENDENT CHILDREN-FOSTER CARE

Upon Motion by Council Member Archie and second by Council Member Daniels, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-03.07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY ANTICIPATING FUNDS FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$143,108 FOR FUNDING FOR THE AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN-FOSTER CARE (AFDC-FC) PROGRAM

was presented by its First Reading, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

SECTION 5303 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FUNDS

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Council Member Castiglione moved adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-03.03

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DANVILLE URBANIZED AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SECTION 5303 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FUNDS.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Archie and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (9)
NAY: None (0).

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications from the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Archie reported that four young men, who are participants in Dan Wharton's class at GWHS and build robots, won first place in State competition recently. She encouraged them to continue the excellent work. Mrs. Archie also reported that some Danville students recently took part in mock interviews. She felt this was an asset for city students that gave future job seekers a head start when applying for jobs. Mrs. Archie expressed pride at the faculty at GWHS who were doing a fantastic job with the students at GWHS.

Council Member Castiglione stated the handicap-accessible parking space that had been in front of the Lutheran Church on West Main Street was painted over when the street was repaved. He advised several church members had approached him about replacing the handicap space and asked the administrative staff to check into the request.

Council Member Daniels, referring to the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Monthly Newsletter, stated he read that 36,331 individuals had been served by the city department since January 1. Mr. Daniels said he understood the senior citizens center was doing really well and more and more citizens were participating in the programs offered there. He said the number of participants were about to outgrow the space available at the center. Mr. Daniels said office and storage space in the downstairs portion of the facility took up a large amount of space.

Mr. Daniels requested City Manager Gwaltney to see if the lower floor area could be rearranged to make more room for activities. He said \$105,000 had been reserved for capital improvements at the center, but were budgeted to be used in 2010. Mr. Daniels

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asked Mr. Gwaltney to look into the possibility of moving the funds up on the priority list.

Council Member Luther advised there would be a Wednesday Club fundraiser at the North Theatre soon. He encouraged everyone to support the club's efforts.

Council Member Oakes commended local fire departments for their efforts in containing a number of brush fires recently.

Council Member Saunders requested the administration invite the GWHS 1st place award-winning students to be present for a Council Meeting soon in order to receive formal congratulations from City Council.

Mr. Saunders advised the Chamber of Commerce, the Pittsylvania County Community Action Agency, and the Virginia Workforce Network Workforce Investment Board, Area 17, Martinsville, VA are sponsoring an open house/business mixer on Thursday, March 30, at the Virginia Workforce One-Stop Center located at 707 Piney Forest Road from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He invited Council Members, staff and the general public to stop by and learn about job training and employment opportunities in the Danville/Pittsylvania County area.

Council Member Smith advised he attended the Employee Service Awards program held at the Institute last Thursday evening. He expressed pride at the city workforce and reported 2,125 years of service from those receiving recognition. Two of those employees had 40 years of service with the City of Danville.

Mr. Smith advised several citizens had approached him about getting cable TV service on Jenny Lane. He asked if someone from the administration could speak with Adelphia about the request. Deputy City Manager Lacy said there had been previous requests for the service, but there had been problems relating to right-of-ways.

Vice-Mayor Williams advised he had attended the Employee Service Awards event held last Thursday evening at the Institute. He stated he had been very impressed with the program.

Dr. Williams commended Economic Development Director Ron Bunch and his staff for all their efforts and progressive thinking in bringing new jobs to the City. He specifically referred to the Economic Development Rider discussed earlier in the meeting by Assistant City Manager for Utilities Joe King.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

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MAYOR

CLERK